

SOLICITATION NOTICE - NOVEMBER 10, 2014

FEDERAL CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 319(H) NONPOINT SOURCE GRANT PROGRAM FULL PROPOSAL APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY 5:00 P.M. ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2015

This Solicitation Notice is only applicable to those applicants invited to submit a Full Proposal for the 2015 Federal Clean Water Act Section 319(h) Nonpoint Source Grant Program [319(h) Grant Program]. Applicants were invited to submit full proposals following the completed Concept Proposal Solicitation process.

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), Division of Financial Assistance is accepting applications for the 319(h) Grant Program to support activities throughout the State to improve and restore beneficial uses in impaired waters. Preferred projects will support implementation and planning/assessment in adopted/nearly adopted TMDL watersheds with comprehensive Watershed Plan(s).

Funding Available

Approximately \$4 million is available under the 2015 solicitation to support Implementation and Planning/Assessment Projects in watersheds identified as Nonpoint Source Program Preferences (See Section I, [Attachment 1](#)). Table 1 below specifies the types of project, match requirements, and funding amount. A minimum match of 25% **of the total project cost** is required, but may be waived or reduced for projects that directly benefit a disadvantaged community ([Attachment 1](#) and [Appendix 4](#) on the [CWA 319\(h\) Grant Webpage](#)). Projects that involve septic system upgrades require a minimum match of 75% **of the total project cost**.

Table 1: 2015 Clean Water Act 319(h) Project Type Information and Funding Requirements

Project Types	Approximate funding Amount Available	Project Funding Range	Minimum Match Requirement
<u>Implementation Projects</u> - that implement actions to restore impaired surface waters by controlling NPS pollution. Implementation projects include on-the ground NPS pollutant reduction projects that achieve quantifiable water quality benefits in a watershed with an adopted or nearly adopted TMDL included in the NPS Program Preferences and that are identified in comprehensive watershed plans. Maximum grant project period is three years.	\$3,000,000	Minimum: \$250,000 Maximum: \$750,000	25% (total project cost), 75% (of the total project cost for septic system upgrades)
<u>Planning/Assessment Projects</u> - that improve watershed plans by carrying out targeted planning/assessment efforts that clearly lead to implementing activities to achieve water quality goals. Planning and assessment projects include activities called for by an adopted or nearly adopted TMDLs identified in the NPS Program Preferences to direct and improve existing watershed planning efforts to be effective guides toward achieving water quality results. Maximum grant period is two years.	\$1,000,000	Minimum: \$75,000 Maximum: \$175,000	25% (total project cost), 75% (of the total project cost for septic system upgrades)

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Projects which include activities required by, or that are necessary to comply with a part of, a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit or are affiliated with a storm water permit are not eligible for 319(h) Grant Program funding.

Solicitation Process

Guidelines ([Attachment 1](#) - 2015 319(h) Grant Program Guidelines) for soliciting applications, evaluating proposals, and awarding grants were established by the State Water Board and Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA).

[Attachment 1](#) of this Solicitation Notice contains the *Guidelines* that apply to the 319(h) Grant Program.

[Attachment 2](#) of this Solicitation Notice lists agencies applicants should contact if they have questions on funding priorities or eligibility requirements.

[Attachment 3](#) (for Planning/Assessment Proposals only) of this Solicitation Notice includes guidelines for completing the Planning/Assessment Project Narrative for applicant's Attachment B.

[Attachment 4](#) (for Implementation Project Proposals only) of this Solicitation Notice includes guidelines for completing the Implementation Project Narrative for applicant's Attachment C.

[Attachment 5](#) of this Solicitation Notice includes guidelines for completing the Scope of Work, Schedule, and Budget Guidelines for applicant's Attachment D.

- [Line Item Budget](#) | [Task Budget](#)

All invited applicants requesting funds from the 319(h) Grant Program must submit a complete electronic full proposal by **5:00 pm on Thursday, January 15, 2015**, using the State Water Board's online Financial Assistance Application Submittal Tool (Financial Application Tool) system at <https://faast.waterboards.ca.gov>. Applicants are encouraged to submit the application early to avoid problems during submission. **Late applications will not be accepted.** To be considered complete, the submitted full proposal application must include all of the items in the checklist below and all attachments. Applicants should use the checklist below to verify that all required information has been submitted using the Financial Application Tool.

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Table 1: Checklist for Completing the Online Full Application

Within the Financial Application Tool, the following SECTIONS must be completed and submitted:

<input type="checkbox"/>	General Information (For the project location information requested in this section, specify the latitude and longitude values that are representative of the project. For large areas of land, specify the mid-point of the area. For a waterbody, specify the mid-point of the waterbody or waterbody reach, as appropriate.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Funding Programs Check the box next to the "319(h) Grant Program". Consult with the contacts listed in Attachment 2 of this notice for questions regarding applicant eligibility, project eligibility, and program priorities.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Project Management Please indicate the Project Director and the Project Manager from the applicant's organization.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Legislative Information Enter the State assembly, State senate, and U.S. congressional districts where the project is located. For projects that include more than one district, please enter each district. Look at the tables provided in the Financial Application Tool to assist with determining the appropriate districts.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Agency Contacts This section must include all agency contacts (Regional Water Board, U.S. EPA, etc.) that assisted in the development of the project proposal. You may enter more than one agency contact.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cooperating Entities List the organizations that will assist the applicant in implementing the project, including partner organizations, consultants, and volunteers. You may enter more than one cooperating entity. We may contact cooperating entities as part of the application review process.

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<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><u>Required Attachments:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attachment A Response to Comments – Limit two pages of text 2. Attachment B <u>Planning/Assessment</u> Project Narrative - Limit nine pages of text (See Attachment 3 of this Solicitation Notice) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Attachment B-1 Project Maps – Limit three pages b. Attachment B-2 PAEP Table – Limit two pages 3. Attachment C <u>Implementation</u> Project Narrative - Limit eleven pages of text (See Attachment 4 of this Solicitation Notice) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Attachment C-1 Project Maps – Limit three pages b. Attachment C-2 PAEP Table – Limit two pages 4. Attachment D Scope of Work, Schedule, and Budget - Limit seven pages of text, excluding Budget Tables. See Attachment 5 of this Solicitation Notice. Submit Budget Tables as separate attachments (See Attachment D-1 and D-2 below). 5. Attachment D-1 Line Item Budget Table – Limit one-page. See Attachment 5 of this Solicitation Notice and provided Template. 6. Attachment D-2 Task Budget Table – Limit two pages. See Attachment 5 of this Solicitation Notice and provided Template. 7. Attachment E Environmental Clearance Checklist – See the Environmental Clearance Checklist and Appendix C for information for CEQA requirements at 319(h) Grant Program. 8. Attachment F Table F-1– Nine Elements Verification Table (Table F-1) for Nonpoint Source Implementation Program [CWA, Section 319(h)]. See Table F-1 and Appendix A at 319(h) Grant Program. 9. Attachment G Letters of Match Commitment – Letter(s) committing to match (e.g., cost share, cash, in-kind services etc.) must be on the funding entity(ies)'s letterhead. 10. Attachment H Application Checklist – Application Checklist from this Solicitation Notice.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p><u>Optional Attachments:</u> (Only if needed)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attachment I Certificate of Incorporation – Limit one page 2. Attachment J Waiver/Match Reduction Request and Exhibit D-1 (See Appendix 4 on the CWA 319(h) Webpage) 3. Letters of Support. </div> <div style="width: 50%;"> <p>Attachments submitted, <u>must</u> conform to the following formatting requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>PDF format</u> is required • Project Narrative in Letter (8.5" x 11") size paper; Maps may be submitted in Legal (8.5" x 14") size • One inch (1-inch) margins. Maps may exceed the one inch (1-inch) margin within reason. • Single-spaced or wider; • Standard font - Size 11 or larger. </div> </div>

For further assistance on the CWA 319(h) Grant Program, please contact:

Mr. Matthew Freese
Division of Water Quality
(916) 341-5485
mfreese@waterboards.ca.gov

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For questions about the State Water Board's Financial Application Tool, please contact by phone at (866) 434-1083 - Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. or by email at faast_admin@waterboards.ca.gov.

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Table 2: 2015 NPS Grant Schedule	
DATES SHOWN IN ITALICS ARE TENTATIVE DATES	
MILESTONE OR ACTIVITY	SCHEDULE
Invite selected applicants to submit Full Proposal applications.	November 17, 2014 (Monday)
Full Proposal applications must be submitted to the State Water Board by 5:00 p.m. Applications submitted after 5:00 p.m. on the due date will not be reviewed or considered for funding.	January 15, 2015 (Thursday)
The State Water Board approval of final grant selections	May 2015